inter alia, Member Customs and the Director General of Foreign Trade. The Apex bodies like CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM, FIEO are also Members of this Group. This Group identifies operational problems relating to Export and Import Policy and Procedures. Based on the deliberations of the Group, the need for making modifications in the Export and Import Policy and Procedures, is examined and changes, as deemed appropriate, are incorporated.

Price of rice for export

38. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of rice for export purposes have been increased;

(b) if so, what are the prices of different grades of rice fixed for domestic consumption and also for export;

(c) the extent of increase made in the export price of rice; and

(d) the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) As per the Exim Policy, both basmati and non-basmati rice are freely exportable without any quantity or price restrictions. During the period April-August 1995, a total quantity of 14,56,276 MT of rice (Basmati and non-basmati) valued at Rs. 1186.74 crores have been exported with an average unit price realisation of Rs. 8.15 per kg as compared to 2,34,916 MT of rice valued at Rs. 402.55 crores exported during the corresponding period last year with an average unit price realisation of Rs. 17.13 per kg.

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Flood disaster in a coal mine in Dhanbad

39. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI O.P KOHLI:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether inquiries into the Gaslitend mines flood disaster, resulting in trapping to death of at least 64 miners, reveal a clear-cut case of human negligence;

(b) if so, what are the details of the accident;

(c) the revelations of the inquiries;

(d) what compensation has been paid to the victims and their families;

(e) steps taken to prevent such disaster in future; and

(f) the number of accidents taken place in coal mines during the last five years and number of persons killed, accident-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) (a) to (c) Under Section 24 of the Mines Act, 1952, the Government have constituted a Court of Inquiry headed by Shri S.K. Mukherjee, to inquire into the causes and circumstances attending the accident which occurred at Gaslitand and other mines of Bharat Cocking Coal Limited (BCCL) on 26/27/-9-1995. The Court of Inquiry is to submit its report within a period of three months.